

## Minutes

Long Term Facilities Planning Committee / Sub Committee (short term)

Monday, January 7, 2013 / 3:00 p.m. school committee room

Attendance was taken by Dennis Mullen : All present

Dennis passed out documents for review including some thoughts on what the advantages and disadvantages of (1)closing a junior high school could be. (2) Moving the sixth grade to the Junior High School. The committee would like to have these changes in place for September 2013.

- The term “weighted” student was explained (reviewed) . – it appears that even with weighted numbers there would be sufficient room in all 3 scenarios.
- The term “crowding” references scheduling and (the way IEP’s are additionally counted) not crowding by too many bodies or ability to fit in areas such as cafeteria/gym.
- If a school closes, will the property go back to the city (as did the elementary schools that closed) ? Are there any deeds/ building to be considered
- Food service: Tony Ferrucci - food service is contracted by number of students. A school closing will not affect food service
- Bussing: More involved. Need to look at routes and potential number of busses needed. Look at the distances for bussing (walkers, etc) / School start times may need to be reviewed as one bus does several routes. Steve O’Haire – consulted : it will be an expensive proposition. Need to review the tiers of routes. Is there a penalty if we go over the maximum # of busses- answer =no. / issues with end of the day and athletics – tweak starting times? Organize start times. The higher you go in grades, the less bus usage. Edulog can help as it attaches the streets and bus routes.
- Bussing is a big consideration for this proposed consolidation.
- Consolidation : when students complete grade 8 they then return to their original feeder high school (at this time often students will go to parochial high schools)
- Include grade 6 in the JHS offered as option: Teacher certifications – (you can also do a school within a school) (Paul Cannistra not fan of 6,7,8) bring keyboarding to grade 6 – ILP will be done in grade 6. / Kids grow fast enough / loss of community identity is not a factor at the middle school level – it is more of an issue at the elementary level. How many teachers are middle school certified? Lose the 6<sup>th</sup> grade experience. Philosophical discussion re: moving grade 6 /6<sup>th</sup> grade students as leaders in their schools will be lost
- Need to run a scheduling model to see if it would work.
- 7-12 discussed.
- Advantages of grade 6 going to JHS : makes room for the proposed full day kindergarten. Close building – the same education would take place.
- Wireless technology bond – 20 million – RIDE. RIDE hiring a consultant to review the needs of Warwick schools. WPS? – expensive proposition. RFP bids close today (January 7, 2013) / the

wireless formula is 150sq ft per student and come up with the number a facility can house for the wireless

- Closing a school is disruptive enough. Harder by moving 6<sup>th</sup> into 7/8. The first move would be the current 5<sup>th</sup> grader moving up.
- Is moving the 6<sup>th</sup> into 7/8 in the best interest of the kids, do we need to move to incorporate full day K / teacher certs/ lots more things to balance moving 6 into 7/8. Because it is not broken and doesn't need to be fixed, but can we make it better?
- Tony Ferrucci would like to know the other communities who have or are moving to 6-8 model in Coventry. Elementary - there is room at the present time.
- This will be a standing committee
- Build a model.
- Motion to close a JHS – contingent upon viewing a model. Subject to creation of a model. Lets see some numbers.
- Vote to withdraw motion / second motion
- Mark Currolo motion to create model – create models and come back to review . Next meeting Wednesday, January 30, 2013 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Bob Bushell motion to adjourn / second – Paul Cannistra